

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks Examiner Cooney for his continued careful and thorough examination of the present application, and also for the very helpful and courteous telephone interview conducted January 25, 2006.

Independent claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 have all been amended to present propylene oxide-extended amine-based polyol compositions as previously recited in claim 32 in combination with dependent claim 33. Similarly, claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the propylene oxide-extended limitation previously found in claim 33, and claim 33 has been canceled to avoid redundancy. These amendments to the Independent claims have been made without prejudice to pursuing the previously pending claims in a further divisional or continuation application. The dependent claims have been amended for consistency with the independent claims as-amended. Claim 40 has been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been entered; basis for the claim amendments can be found in the claims as-filed and previously pending.

Claim 40 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112. This claim has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection.

Independent claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 32 all stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over each of Apichatachutapan, Lutter and Falke. Each of these independent claims has now been amended to recite a specific combination (and relative amounts) of propylene oxide-extended amine-based polyols, namely "1-15 parts propylene-oxide extended monoethanolamine-based polyol, 6-25 parts propylene-oxide extended triethanolamine-based polyol, 22-40 parts propylene-oxide extended ethylenediamine-based polyol." This is the same combination (and relative amounts) of amine-based polyols as previously recited by the combination of claim 33 with claim 32,

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which was discussed during the telephone interview.

Specifically, during the interview it was pointed out that none of the references provides any motivation or suggestion to combine these polyols, in these ratios, to produce a semi-rigid foam. The examiner is requested to give favorable consideration to the independent claims as now presented, and to recognize that none of the references, which provide vast laundry lists of virtually every component and component class that can go into a polyurethane foam, provides any motivation, suggestion, teaching or any reasonable expectation of success, to combine the polyols in the ratios now recited in the independent claims. Moreover, there is no motivation in the cited prior art to expect that a semi-rigid viscoelastic foam would result from that particular combination, having properties that are unique and distinct from the flexible foams specifically disclosed in the references.

In view of the present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 32 are now clearly allowable. All the remaining claims are dependent claims and are thus believed to be allowable as such.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding the instant submission, or otherwise for any reason that may advance prosecution, he is requested to please contact the undersigned attorneys at the phone number provided below.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication not covered by an enclosed check, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36211.

Respectfully submitted,
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